

denying an alternative motion of censure when this debate takes place.

We feel that both of these requests are reasonable and make common sense, and we make them with respect, and we make them with heartfelt feeling among most of the Members on this side.

We appreciate the opportunity to communicate this with the majority. We feel this is a moment of great responsibility for the House of Representatives. We want nothing more than all of the House and all of its Members to bring praise on ourselves as an institution, that we carry out these grave responsibilities in the best possible way for the American people.

FURTHER LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I do have a couple of Members that have been anxious to speak. With the indulgence of the minority, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JOHNSON) for brief remarks.

□ 1530

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on several remarks that have been made here. But before I do, let me just say that our fighting men are fighting for our constitutional privilege to do just exactly what we are doing here today. It is the Constitution that we are following. That is why we are doing it.

The remark was made that we did not remove any generals during a war. I kind of recall MacArthur was removed by a Democrat administration during Korea, which I fought in. It did not bother the war effort at all.

I also remember when I was a POW in Vietnam that there were people on the Democrat side that called for our President's impeachment. That process may have started. I am not sure how that happened, but some of those people may even be here today.

When our president, George Bush, attempted to get involved in Desert Storm, every single Democrat leader voted against it.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, may I just intercede with a thought. I have a couple of other Members here who have been waiting. They want to speak. I would hope, and I am sure that we all would agree that we perhaps could allow these Members to speak, but perhaps we could be brief and then conclude the day's business.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I voted with the President. I did not vote against him. I voted with the President on that matter.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, let me just make another point. I think the President has just said that this military action that is currently going on could be open-ended, so we do not know when it is going to end.

Furthermore, most of the veterans' organizations around this country support us continuing. I have not seen a war in the past of any sort, whether it is a limited conflict or a total out war, that has stopped the Congress of the United States from doing its business. We can look back in almost any case, even the Civil War, where they were on the doorsteps of this building.

I would suggest that it is important that we carry out the responsibilities of this Congress under the Constitution of the United States and get on with it.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, who was a prisoner of war for 7 years, much of which was spent in solitary confinement. I know from previous discussion during those difficult days he was sustained by his knowledge that God was in his heaven and Congress was in session doing the Nation's business.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DUNCAN HUNTER), another gentleman who served in Vietnam.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the majority leader for yielding to me.

Let me just say, it is something that happens regularly here in the House that two parties, both in good faith, can look at the same facts and come to totally different conclusions. I have come to a totally different conclusion from the esteemed minority leader and others who feel that troops will be demoralized if we do not stop this constitutional process. I think just the opposite. From talking with them and with a number of people who are veterans, I have come to the conclusion that they will be demoralized if we do stop this constitutional process.

There is one term that I think is common to both this House and to our military. That term is duty. We refer to it often, and it is clear now that our uniformed people are carrying out their duty in difficult circumstances to defend the liberties and security of this country. They are doing that so we can perform our duty. Our duty is to carry out the Constitution.

With respect to other nations that are watching this process around the world, they have been watching the Committee on the Judiciary on television for the last many months. We do not hide our internal problems and our internal debates. They are always out there for the world to see. I think that is a sign of strength, not a sign of weakness.

I think we would be sending the message to not only our military people but to others around the world. If we hold up on our constitutional duty because of this strike, then we are send-

ing the message that somehow there are political implications in the timing of this strike. I think it helps the President's authority and I think it helps the credibility of this House, and I think it helps the morale of our armed services if we continue to do our job.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I think we have had a very good example of the kind of debate we might be able to have and the kind of debate we should have.

I want to personally, if I may, thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the minority leader, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), the minority whip. I would like to thank the Speaker-elect, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON), and the other Members who have spoken for their demeanor, their presentation, the professionalism by which we have had this sampling of the kind of important debate we should have and can have tomorrow.

It is my hope that we can reach agreement, or by other parliamentary matters available to us we can find a way to extend an orderly, serious debate of such a grave nature on such a grave matter tomorrow. Again, let me that all the gentlemen who participated.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that concludes any proceedings for today. Tomorrow we will proceed at 9 a.m. under the regular order for debate time of 1 hour. If perhaps we can find a better way to extend that, it is my hope we can do so.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, December 18, 1998, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

11864. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Regulations Under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA); Renewal of License [Docket No. FV98-359] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11865. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Mexican Fruit Fly Regulations; Addition of Regulated Area [Docket No. 98-082-3] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11866. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Tuberculosis Testing of Livestock Other than Cattle and Bison [Docket No. 97-062-2] received December 3,